

IIHR

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IIHR in the Americas

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Contents:

- **UNIORE mission to the regional and municipal elections in Peru.** *Lima, Peru.*
- **Presentation of book on school bullying.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **Executive Director meets with the Commander of the Southern Command of the United States Army.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **International Seminar Belém do Pará.** *Montevideo, Uruguay.*
- **Non -discrimination and humans rights.** *Guadalajara, Jalisco, México.*
- **Workshop on citizen accountability and auditing.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **Human rights training for the staff of the Ministry of Public Education.** *Rey Curré, Buenos Aires, Puntarenas, Costa Rica.*
- **Course on Citizen Security, Prevention and Human Rights.** *Montevideo, Uruguay.*
- **Video conference on the impact of civil society.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **Sixth International Seminar on Human Rights and the International Law of Armed Conflicts.** *Bogotá, Colombia.*
- **Visit to Sincelejo.** *Sincelejo, Sucre, Colombia.*
- **Diploma course on “Dynamics of the Post-conflict, Proposal for Peace.”** *Bogotá, Colombia.*
- **Conference on the abolition of the death penalty.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **Exhibition of posters on the abolition of the death penalty.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **UNIORE mission to the general elections in Bolivia.** *La Paz, Bolivia.*
- **New publication on access to justice.** *San José, Costa Rica.*
- **New didactic text and multi-media text on the prevention of bullying in school.** *San José, Costa Rica.*

UNIORE mission to the regional and municipal elections in Peru

Lima, Peru. On October 5, elections were held in Peru for the positions of regional presidents and mayors, for which there were 21,301,903 eligible voters in 38 Districts and 15 Departments.

Responding to an invitation of the Peruvian electoral bodies, the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) formed an observation mission with representatives of the electoral bodies of Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay, who were accompanied by staff of IIHR/CAPEL. During four days, the mission received information from the national electoral bodies and experts, reporters, candidates, politicians and representatives of civil society. On election day, the members observed the opening of voting centers, voting at three points in the Peruvian capital and attended the closing of the voting. The mission, in its evaluation, pointed out the high civic participation, more than 83%,

the progress and obstacles in the pilot plan of electronic voting in Lima, Callao and Cañete and the efforts of the electoral bodies to preserve the secrecy of the ballot. It also underlined the importance of taking measures to improve the participation of those with some disability, a more effective accountability of the political organizations and the candidates during the campaign and the mechanisms of control and sanction by the electoral authorities. The conclusions and technical recommendations of the mission will be contained in a report that will be presented in a few weeks to the electoral authorities.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

Presentation of book on school bullying

San José, Costa Rica. On September 19, the Inter-American Classroom of Human Rights was the scene of the presentation of the publication *Prevention of school bullying : bullying and cyber bullying : didactic and multi-media text*. Published by the IIHR with the support of the Embassy of Australia in Mexico, the book will be very useful for learning, reflecting and dealing with school bullying. With this publication, the IIHR is contributing to the formation of a culture of peace through theoretical-conceptual discussions that promote the practices and changes that are necessary to build more secure educational communities in which conflicts are resolved pacifically and human rights are respected.

The event was presided over by IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson, who was joined by María Auxiliadora Solís, who represented the Ministry of Public Education of Costa Rica; Alejandrina Mata, Dean of the School of Education of the University of Costa Rica; and, Javier Escalante, Honorary Consul of Australia.

Charged with the presentation of this publication and the commentaries were Dina Rodríguez and Dean Mata, respectively. They were followed by a video of the Ministry of Education. The representative of the Ministry of Education officially received a copy of the book from the Executive Director and the Consul of Australia. The delegation of the Ministry received a number of books for use in their respective regions.

The videos may be found in IIHR Audio-Visuals, the institutional channel in Youtube

Bullying: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNfdITR0xUg>

Bullying with LESCO: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKkeadPtmIg>

Teachers: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5nA0_x4oGb8

Students: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hk64gINC0A>

Spot summary: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vho72RFNKbQ>

Spot students: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGVORrTfccg>

[Gallery of photographs](#)

Executive Director meets with the Commander of the Southern Command of the United States Army

San José, Costa Rica. On September 10, IIHR Executive Director, José Thompson, met with General John Kelly, Commander of the Southern Command of the United States Army, and members of human rights organizations to discuss issues relating to citizen security.

Mr. Thompson described the work of the IIHR in the region, how it differed with respect to what similar organizations are doing and inquired as to the possibilities of the support of the United States government for the Institute's work.

International Seminar Belém do Pará

Montevideo, Uruguay. On September 16-17, IIHR Representative for the Mercosur Region, Soledad García Muñoz, participated in the International Seminar Belém do Pará, organized by the National Institute of Women of the Ministry of Social Development (INMUJERES). The event, which commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belém Do Pará), was presided over by Ms. García Muñoz, Beatriz Ramírez, Director of INMUJERES; Alicia Araújo, of the Foreign Ministry; and Alejandra Mora Mora, President of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

More than 300 persons attended the event and a large number of persons in Uruguay and a dozen other countries followed it virtually. The program included, among other themes, an approach to the Convention, the second report on its implementation, the indicators of follow-up, progress in the system of responses to violence and policies to eradicate it.

Read more in the Internet, [here](#)

[Photograph](#)

No-discrimination and human rights

Guadalajara, Jalisco, México. On September 17-18, Rose Mary Madden Arias, staff member of the IIHR program on the human rights of women spoke on “Non-discrimination and the Human Rights of Women” as part of an activity organized by the IIHR Coordinator of Education and the Secretariat of Education of the State of Jalisco, Mexico.

The purpose of this joint activity of the IIHR and State authorities was to give human rights training to some 400 educators.

Workshop on civic accountability and auditing

San José, Costa Rica. This two-day workshop was organized by the Center for Electoral Assistance and Promotion on September 18-19.

Its goal was to provide a forum for the exchange of experiences on civic accountability and auditing among various countries of Central America, the Caribbean and the Andean Region. Participating for the IIHR were Salvador Romero, Director of CAPEL; Sofía Vincenzi, Program Officer and Ricardo Valverde, consultant.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

Human rights training for the staff of the Ministry of Public Education

Rey Curré, Buenos Aires, Puntarenas, Costa Rica. On September 18 and 19 in the Liceo Rural Indígena *Yimba CAJC* located in the Brunca indigenous territory Rey Curré, human rights workshops were held for some 20 staff members of the Ministry of Public Education of Costa Rica (MEP) who work with indigenous children and adolescents. The Liceo is located in the southern part of the country where Brunca, Térraba, Bribri and Cabécar communities live and where ngóbe families migrate from Panama on a seasonal basis.

Through talks and participative techniques, basic ideas of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples and women were discussed with emphasis on the violence and

discrimination to which they are subjected. The IIHR team was comprised of Natalia Alvarado, of the MEP; Priscilla Solano, of the IIHR Program on the Human Rights of Women; Lucrecia Molina, of the IIHR Information Area, and Laura Chacón, an IIHR intern. This was an IIHR contribution to the project “Providing Opportunities for Inter-Cultural Dialogue at the Liceo Rural Indígena Yimba CAJC,” of the Institute of Population Studies of the National University of Costa Rica.

Course on Citizen Security, Prevention and Human Rights

Montevideo, Uruguay. On September 23, Marcelo Koyra, consultant and expert of the IIHR Regional Office for South America, spoke on *Citizen Security, Prevention and Human Rights* at the National Police Academy of Uruguay.

The opening ceremony was headed by Julio Guarteche and Sergio Guarteche, Directors of the Police and the Communitarian Police of Uruguay, respectively, and the institutional representative, Soledad García Muñoz. The activity was part of the agreement of cooperation of the Ministry of Interior (National Office of the Communitarian Police) and the IIHR. Among matters taken up was the System of Multiple Response to prevent violence in communities that are considered vulnerable.

Photographs [here](#) and [here](#)

Video conference on the impact of civil society

San José, Costa Rica. On September 24, the Red Incidiendo Network held a video conference on *How can Civil Society have an Impact?* in which Patricio Morera, Andean Regional Director of TECHO participated. He was accompanied by Mónica Barrantes, who is in charge of the network.

An open invitation exists to join Red Incidiendo, an IIHR initiative that establishes ties of cooperation with organizations, groups and communities that work with populations in situations of poverty.

[Visit the Web page of Red Incidiendo](#)

See the video [here](#)

Sixth International Seminar on Human Rights and the International Law of Armed Conflicts

Bogotá, Colombia. During the period September 22-25 in the Superior War College, the Sixth International Seminar on Human Rights and the International Law of Armed Conflicts: Colombia: Between Negotiation and Transition, took place with the support of the IIHR and the University of Special Operations of the United States.

Seven international experts, from Switzerland, Bolivia, Venezuela, Nicaragua and the United States, and 18 national participants analyzed the Colombian context with respect to the peace process by examining, among other issues, justice in the context of the transition, the dynamics and probable scenarios arising from discussions taking place in Havana and the roles and positions of the different social actors in an eventual phase of the post-conflict.

Read more in the Internet [here](#)

Visit to Sincelejo

Sincelejo, Sucre, Colombia. On September 25, the IIHR Representative in Colombia, Juan Navarrete, visited Sincelejo,, Department of Sucre, where he met with the Secretary of the Interior and Civic Coexistence, Mario Yenet; Taila Martínez, an advisor, and the representatives of the Sucre Diversa Foundation, Juan Carlos Salas and Hugo Ramos Hernández.

During the visit, he received information on “The protocol to standardize behavior and attitudes of State security agents, judicial and control bodies with respect to the LGBTI community of Sincelejo-Sucre.”

[Photograph](#)

Diploma course “Dynamics of the Post-conflict, Proposal for Peace”

Bogotá, Colombia. On September 27, Horacio Serpa Uribe, a Colombian expert, spoke on *Demobilization in the Post-conflict. From War to Peace.*

The activity is part of the diploma course “Dynamics of the Post-conflict. Proposal for Peace,” a program of the Gerardo Molina Chair of the Universidad Libre with the academic support of the IIHR.

Conference on the abolition of the death penalty

San José, Costa Rica. On October 8, the IIHR Inter-American Classroom of Human Rights was the scene of an academic activity regarding the *Universal Abolition of the Death Penalty and Human Rights: European and Inter-American Instruments.* It was organized in conjunction with the visit of Jean-Paul Costa, President of the International Institute of Human Rights and former President of the European Court of Human Rights, as part of the International Conference on the Abolition of the Death Penalty (October 9-11, San José, Costa Rica).

In addition to Mr. Costa, participating were Christine Lazerges, President of the French National Consultative Commission of Human Rights, and José Thompson, IIHR Executive Director. Ana Helena Chacón, Vice President of Costa Rica, closed the event. There followed a rich interchange with university students, members of the diplomatic corps and the public.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

Exhibition of posters for the abolition of the death penalty

San José, Costa Rica. October 8 saw the inauguration of an exhibition of posters commemorating the International Day for the Abolition of the Death Penalty on October 10, thanks to the collaboration of the Embassy of France and the Alianza Francesa in Costa Rica. The posters were selected from among the hundred that comprise the collection and their exhibition is a demonstration of the commitment of the French government to the campaign to abolish this punishment throughout the world. The posters are the work of artists who participated in the 2010 international competition “Death is not Justice,” sponsored by the French NGO “Poster for Tomorrow” with the support of the Council of Europe, the French government and Amnesty International.

The exhibition will be at the Inter-American Classroom for Human Rights during the

XXXII Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights that closes on October 24.

See the photographs of the posters in FaceBook by clicking [here](#)

UNIORE mission to the general elections in Bolivia

La Paz, Bolivia. Thanks to the invitation of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia (TSE), the Inter-American Union of Electoral Bodies (UNIORE) organized an international mission to observe the general elections of October 12. The mission was comprised of judges and staff of the electoral bodies of Argentina, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Venezuela. Representing IIHR/CAPEL, the Executive Secretariat of UNIORE were its Director, Salvador Romero, and Ricardo Valverde, a consultant.

During its stay in Bolivia, the mission received information from the TSE and met with experts, candidates and representatives of political parties and organizations of civil society. On election day, groups were formed to observe the elections in the Departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and La Paz. After an evaluation, a report, which systematized the comments and contributions of the mission, was presented to the TSE.

[Gallery of photographs](#)

New publication on access to justice

San José, Costa Rica. The IIHR has just published [Access to justice for vulnerable groups. General manual of litigation in the inter-American system with a differentiated focus. Childhood and adolescence, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.](#)

This publication documents cases and situations to give more attention to vulnerable collectives. It also presents a road map that goes from the exhaustion of domestic remedies as a principal means of protecting rights until arriving at the phase of inter-American litigation on the basis of the Inter-American doctrine and jurisprudence on the access to justice. Finally, there is a proposal of complementary strategic approaches that would take advantage of all of the options that the inter-American system provides in addition to the documentation of individual petitions.

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